Promoting Classical music

Accomplished mridangam maestro 'Mridanga Vidwan' T S NANDKUMAR teaches young aspirants the intricacies of Indian classical music.

With a musical lineage that can be traced to the legendary Nadaswaram duo, Ambalapuzha Brothers, T S Nandkumar developed a passion for music at the age of seven. With arduous training under the able tutelage of mridangam maestro Kaithavana Madhava Das, Nandkumar soon acquired proficiency as 'Laya Vidwan'. Since then, he has won accolades for his performances from institutions like the Kerala Sangeet Natak Academy.

For more than two decades now, Nandkumar has been promoting Indian Carnatic music both as a teacher and a performer. He has had the privelege of performing for various festivals all over the country, besides giving performances for AIR and Doordarshan.

As a performing artist, he has the ability to sustain the interest of the audience through intelligent rhythmic forays. He is the leading light of the percussion ensemble, 'Vadya Laya Vrinda'. Last year, Nandkumar established TSN's Percussive Arts Centre. He says, "Though there are several institutions for imparting training in vocal and instrumental music and dance, there is no institution, for which offers exclusive and specialised training in 'Avanaddha Vadyas' ie percussison instruments. Also the number of artistes associated with the 'Avanaddha Vadyas' is dwindling mainly due to lack of proper training facilities. With a view to bridge this gap, TSN's Percussive Arts Centre in Mumbai has emerged as the forerunner in the promotion of fine arts. The institution plans to explore rhythm and form ensembles of percussive artistes."

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